

Bargaining Update – Where Are We At

Some progress was made during the negotiation meeting of 1 December 2011 with Ergon. We were able to reach agreement on several outstanding items. These include:

- Apprentices;
- Delegates' Rights;
- Maintenance of Energy Super as Ergon Energy Fund;
- Ability to access paternity leave at half-pay.

Whilst agreement was reached on some matters there are a number of claims that remain outstanding. These include:

- On-call allowance - \$45 regular, \$50 more than 1 in 3 with an additional \$5 per annum;
- PICW Allowance – Ergon to respond;
- RPEQ Allowance – SBU seeking \$3000 payment;
- EDSD allowance/payment improvements – increase by averaged 0.5% off wages per annum;
- Superannuation - Income protection – reduce waiting period to 14 days.

Additionally, Ergon are continuing to seek the following productivity initiatives which are unacceptable to the SBU:

- Resource Optimisation and Utilisation;
- Control Centre Rostering;
- Start and Finish on the job.

Although some of the outcomes above are encouraging the negotiations have reached a deadlock. Further, Ergon has advised that they will be making an application to Fair Work Australia for assistance to resolve the outstanding issues, although at this stage it is not known when this will be done. Generally these applications are listed as soon as possible before a member of Fair Work Australia. If the application is made your Union Representatives will be working hard through this conciliation process to reach an agreement.

Our union will make every attempt to resolve these outstanding items as expeditiously as possible.

Issues with the Protected Action Ballot process

In a follow up to our bulletin last week the applications put in by the QSU and ETU to complain to Fair Work Australia about

their concerns that many members received their ballot papers too late to have any chance of returning them in time to be counted in the Protected Industrial Action ballot or did not receive a ballot paper at all were dismissed. Fair Work Australia determined that once the ballot order is in place authorising the Australian Electoral Commission to conduct a ballot, it will not interfere with the way that the ballot is conducted.

Outcome of our Protected Action Ballot

We have received the results of our Protected Action Ballot. For the Protected Industrial Action ballot to be success the following conditions must be met:

- the action was the subject of the ballot; and
- at least 50% of the employees on the roll of voters for the ballot voted in the ballot; and
- more than 50% of the valid votes were votes approving the action.

Although we were the only union to achieve more than 50% returns of the employees on the roll of voters the only action that was voted in favour by members was in relation to a ban on overtime. However, it is our understanding that our members experienced similar problems to those in other unions.

Next Steps

We will be contacting our members this week to gauge their views on the negotiations so far and the Protected Action Ballot process. We will also be organising member meetings for next week to discuss these matters.

We also hope to provide a full update of all the matters agreed to by the parties to members at the meetings.

For more information about this bulletin, please contact ASU Delegate, Maree Bock on 0458 284 937 or your ASU Organiser, Ashleigh Saunders on 07 4922 3071 or alternatively email: members@qld.asu.net.au

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